

WEEKLY UPDATE: 4/28/2017
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

CROSSOVER DEADLINE in the General Assembly is this Thursday, meaning if a bill does not make it through either the House or Senate by Thursday, the bill is dead for this session unless there is a budgetary component to the bill.

H-867; Coastal Fisheries Conservation/Economic Development

This bill would make significant changes in the fisheries management process in North Carolina. It can be found here:

H-867

The bill was referred to the House Wildlife Resources Committee. NCFA has written all of the House members in opposition to the bill. Primary sponsor is Rep. John Bell. This bill was not subject to the crossover deadline. The bill was filed, according to its primary sponsor, to force stakeholders "to the table" to discuss the issues.

Updates on other fisheries related legislation:

H-853: Protect Striped Bass/Central Southern Area; by Reps. Richardson, Adams & Wray

Could not possess striped bass in that area by commercial fishermen, but OK to catch hook & line.

H-853

The bill was never heard in Committee and since it did not pass before crossover is dead.

H-524 Marine Aquaculture Development Act, sponsored by Rep. Beverly Boswell and Rep. Phil Shepard.

H-524, identical to S-410

Referred to the House Environment Committee; was scheduled to be heard on 4/20 but the meeting was cancelled. **Was not acted upon before crossover, but is not subject to the crossover deadline.**

S-131: Regulatory Reform Act of 2016-2017 by Senators Wells, Cook & Sanderson

Omnibus bill with lots of non-fishing stuff, but includes making all commercial and recreational fishing license information confidential, include email addresses.

Bill was passed by both Senate and House is now on the Governor's desk for his signature.

S-131

S-370: South Atlantic Federal Fisheries Resources: by Senator Rabon

Senate Resolution in opposition the federal catch shares. Senator Cook has been added as a sponsor.

S-370

Bill was adopted by the Senate 47 – 0.

S-410: Marine Aquaculture Development Act by Senators Cook, Sanderson & Tillman

S-410

Bill given a favorable report by the Senate Ag, Natural Resources & Env Committee; Referred to Rules Committee. This bill is not subject to the crossover deadline.

S-432: Delay Marine Fisheries Rule Making by Senators Sanderson, Cook & Tillman

Would delay the implementation of any rules from the shrimp petition until bycatch study is finished.

S-432

Bill is in the Senate Rules Committee.

S-434: Amend Environmental Laws 2 by Senators Sanderson, Cook & Wells

An omnibus bill with language about herring. Requires the Division of Marine Fisheries to review its FMP for river herring and report back to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources no later than December 15, 2017.

S-434

Bill was passed by the Senate and is now in the House Environment Committee.

H-545: Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee Reforms: by Reps Boswell, Millis, Pittman, Clampitt, Dulin, Harrison, Speciale, & Steinburg

Would require the Marine Fisheries Commission to provide a resolution when the Commission rejects the recommendations of the advisors. Basis for this legislation is the action by the MFC in February when they rejected the overwhelming recommendations by 5 advisory committees to deny the shrimp Petition for Rulemaking.

H-545

The bill passed the House Wildlife Resources Committee but died in the Environment Committee. It was subject to crossover so is dead for this session. NCFA recommended to let the bill die without further action before crossover.

CARTERET COUNTY FISH FRY COMING UP IN MAY!

The Carteret County Fishermen's Association will hold their ANNUAL FISH FRY on May 13th, from 11am till 6:00pm at Wheatly Boys Tire & Auto in Otway. Plates are only \$10! Sponsorships also available so for more information, call 252-269-5020 or 252-503-0382.

CALENDAR

May 1; NCFA Board of Directors; Noon; Civic Center; Washington, NC

May 10; Joint MAFMC & ASMFC; Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Board; Alexandria, VA

May 13; CCFA Fish Fry; 11am – 6pm; Wheatly Boys in Otway; \$10 per plate

May 17 – 18; NC MFC Meeting; New Bern, NC